Dr. L. J. West

Psychiatrist Discounts Ruby Lie Test

By Bill Kalb

The recent lie detector test given to Jack Ruby, condemned slayer of presidential assassin Lee Oswald, isn't even worth the paper it's printed on, claims an Oklahoma City psychiatrist, who examined Ruby three times.

"Since Ruby is now insane, his recent polygraph test is not valid," said Dr. Louis Joylon West, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine's professor and chairman of the department of psychiatry, neurology and behavorial sciences.

"A mentally ill person believes things to be true that really aren't. It is impossible to say how much polygraph data on a mentally ill person can be considered reliable," the expert said in an interview.

"Ruby didn't request the test to establish his innocence. He had been demanding it for weeks, trying to prove that he had nothing to do with the assassination of Kennedy.

"He wants to convince everyone that he and Oswald were not together in a conspiracy. He hopes to stop the persecution of the Jews that he imagines," the doctor said.

Dr. West does agree with Ruby's alleged polygraph statement that Oswald was murdered on impulse.

"It was an irresistable impulse of a man incapable of juding the nature and consequences of his actions, the OU expert said, also covering comments he made in a letter to the Warren Commission investigating the assassination.

"There is no question his mind was greatly troubled by the president's asassination. His greatest mental distress was his deep concern about Mrs. Kennedy, a woman he idealized abnormally," he said.

Abnormal attachments were nothing new in Ruby's life, Dr. West said.

"He was deeply attached to a man in Chicago, who was shot and killed back in the days when Ruby was still Jacob Rubenstein. After this man died, he went into a terrible depression. It is significant, I think, that this man's killer was never convicted.

"Later he took the man's first name, legally changing his own to Jacob Leon Rubenstein.

"When younger, he also had a fixation on Barney Ross. One one occasion, Ross was knocked down and Ruby passed out cold. Ross got up and won the fight. It took 10 minutes to revive Ruby," he said.

"There was no question in Ruby's mind that Oswald was guilty and would be executed," Dr. West said as he began reconstructing Ruby's mental state on November 24.

"He had read the morning paper about Mrs. Kennedy having to return to Dallas and go through the assassination all over again at Oswald's trial. He was distracted and disturbed about her having to come back.

"As far as Ruby knew Oswald was to be transferred at 10 a.m. from the city to county jail. It was well publicized.

"Ruby went downtown to telegraph some money to an employe in Fort Worth. He was carrying a large payroll — something like $2,000 — and a pistol as he always did when he carried such a large sum.

"The telegram was stamped 11:17 a.m. Oswald had already left as far as Ruby knew. It just happens the jail is right down the street from the telegraph office.

"Ruby saw the crowd at the jail," Dr. West continued, "and thought maybe the chief was talking to reporters. He went to see what was going on.

"Suddenly there was Oswald with the TV lights shining on him. It flashed into Ruby's mind that if Oswald were dead, Mrs. Kennedy would be spared the suffering of returning to Dallas and the trial," he said.

"Without reflection or rational thought he pulled the gun out and shot Oswald. In his disturbed emotional state, he was without capacity to reason out the consequences."

Dr. West said this was his personal reconstruction of what actually happened from his examination of Ruby and of all the material available.

"He still doesn't realize the significance of what he's done," West said.

"I believe he has an abnormal brain. How much is due to brain injuries and how much to other factors is impossible to say," he said.

8 Drown, 10 Lost

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP) — Eight persons drowned and 10 were missing after a boat capsized Sunday while crossing the flooded river Jhelum about 60 miles east of Rawalpindi.